(c) to (e) In September, 2007, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had decided to continue the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, with the modifications that:—

(i) in case of professional courses, it is available only to those students who are admitted against 'free seats' whether in Government or private institutions, and

(ii) in case of private professional institutions, where admission is on the basis of 12th standard examination marks, there shall be a bench mark of 60% for availing the scholarship.

The above modifications have been withdrawn by the above mentioned Ministry on 28.02.2008.

Councils and Institutions for Training and Research

984. SHR1 PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of councils and institutions for training and research in the field of education controlled by the Central Government;

(b) the details regarding internal marks to be given in the P.T.C. and B.Ed, courses for primary and secondary teachers; and

(c) the details of agencies which are empowered to give recognition to P.T.C. and B.Ed, colleges at the State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are several institutions under Ministry of Human Resource Development which impart training and research in the field of education. These, i*nter-alia,* include National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), National Council of Educational Research & Training, (NCERT), National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Institutions of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), etc.

(b) and (c) NCTE is a Statutory Body set up under the NCTE Act with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinated development of teacher education throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. The NCTE through the four regional committees under it—the Northern Regional Committee, the Western Regional Committee, the Southern Regional Committee and the Eastern Regional Committee is authorized under the NCTE Act to grant recognition to the institutions for undertaking various teacher training courses in the country, the accordance with the extant rules and regulations.

Popularity of courses for Urdu and Punjabi

985. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates appeared in Urdu subject in CBSE Examination in 2007 and how many students appeared in Urdu as Elective subject in CBSE Senior Secondary Examination;